



A Note from WSSC Water's Intergovernmental Relations Office

With Crossover having passed on March 20th, lawmakers are laser focused on getting their bills through the legislative process before the General Assembly adjourns *Sine Die* on April 10th. There have been 2,273 bills introduced thus far during the 2023 Legislative Session.

On March 21st, Montgomery County's Democratic Central Committee voted to nominate Sarah Wolek to fill the vacant District 16 Delegate seat previously held by Senator Ariana Kelly. If approved by Governor Moore, Wolek would complete Kelly's term which ends in November 2026.

WSSC Water's **Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO)** is on the front-line advocating for legislation that impacts our work. **IRO** covers a variety of subject matters and focuses on legislation that helps WSSC Water fulfill our mission to provide safe and reliable water, life's most precious resource, and return clean water to our environment, all in an ethical, sustainable, and financially responsible manner.

The Annapolis Observer is **IRO's** weekly update on happenings in Annapolis and highlights the progress of key bills of interest to WSSC Water, as well as provide timely updates and calendar of important dates.

Legislative Updates

WSSC Water has proposed one bill for the 2023 Legislative Session: [HB 783 \(MC/PG 101-23\)](#) - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Program - Revisions and Extension. This bill updates, modernizes, streamlines, and strengthens provisions pertaining to WSSC Water's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Utilization Program, including extending the Office of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion's statutory authority to have an MBE program for five (5) years, ending on June 30, 2028.

The House of Delegates passed [HB 783 \(MC/PG 101-23\)](#) by a vote of 132-1 on March 20, 2023. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration. The Senate Budget & Taxation; and the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committees will hold their bill hearing for HB 783 on March 29, 2023, at 1:00 pm.

The Montgomery County and Prince George's County House Delegations have voted unanimously to amend and pass [HB 872 \(MC/PG 111-23\)](#). As amended, this bill authorizes WSSC Water to enter into contracts with the District of Columbia or the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a water supply, sewer, or drainage system for certain properties located within in Prince George's County. This legislation was introduced at the request of the County Executive. The House Environment and Transportation Committee will hold their bill hearing for HB 872 on March 30, 2023, at 1:00 pm.

WSSC Water will continue to champion policies that provide safe and reliable water and return clean water to our environment, all in an ethical, sustainable and financially responsible manner.

Around WSSC Water



BEHIND ON YOUR WATER/SEWER BILL?
¿ESTÁ ATRASADO EN SU FACTURA DE AGUA/ALCANTARILLADO?
You might qualify for a new state program:
Es posible que califique para un nuevo programa estatal
Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

Apply online dhs.maryland.gov/ohep
Apply in person:
Aplica en línea o en persona:

Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services 1301 Piccard Drive Rockville, MD 20850 (240) 777-4450	Prince George's County Dept. of Social Services 425 Brightseat Road Landover, MD 20785 (301) 909-6300
---	--

Limited funds. Apply today!
Fondos limitados. Aplica hoy.



LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHWAP)

[The MD Department of Human Services](#), *Low Income Household Water Assistance Program* (LIHWAP), is a water assistance program that provides funds to assist low income households pay their water/sewer bills that are 30 days or more past due. Funds are limited so please apply today using one of the following methods:

- Online at the Maryland Department of Human Services website at www.dhs.maryland.gov/ohep.
- In-person at the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services office located at 1301 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. Telephone 240-777-4450.
- In-person at the Prince George's County Department of Social Services office located at 425 Brightseat Road, Landover, MD 20785. Telephone 301-909-6300.

PATUXENT WATERSHED PROTECTORS

Calling all environmental champions and water recreation enthusiasts! Become a Patuxent Watershed Protector and help keep the land around our two drinking water reservoirs on the Patuxent River trash-free!

This program is ideal for community organizations, youth and scout groups, corporations, or any family looking to get outside and take action to protect the land and water resources of the Patuxent River Reservoirs and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

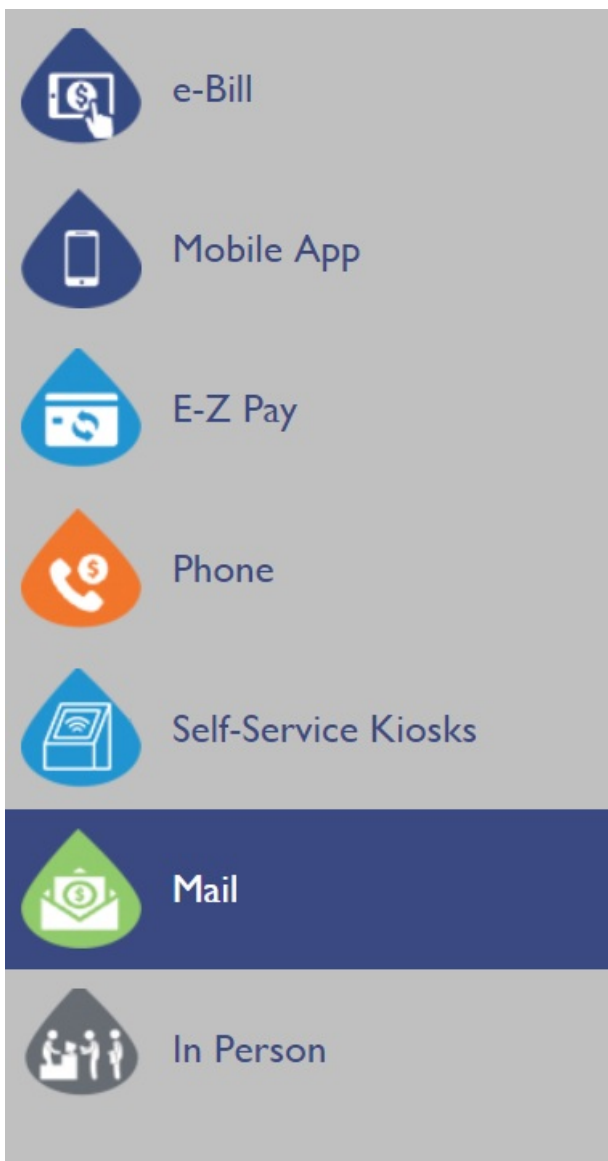
Groups volunteer from mid-March through early December to pick up trash along the shoreline, in parking lots and picnic areas at a location of their choosing. Find out how you can be a watershed protector at wsscwater.com/protectors.

WSSC WATER 2023 COMMISSIONERS' ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

WSSC Water is accepting applications for the 2023 Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship.

- The scholarship, which provides \$2,000 per year, supports WSSC Water's ongoing efforts to attract aspiring engineers to careers in the water industry.
- The scholarship is open to students with permanent residency in Montgomery or Prince George's counties and are enrolled in a full-time college or university engineering program. High school seniors accepted into an engineering program are also eligible.
- In addition to an essay, applicants must include an introductory video and proof of residency in WSSC Water's service district.
- Access and submit your application [here](#), or submit via US mail addressed to - Julianne Montes de Oca, Corporate Secretary, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707.

Please visit wsscwater.com/scholarship to get complete details and application requirements. The **deadline to apply is Monday, April 17, 2023**.



PAYING YOUR WSSC WATER BILL

WSSC Water provides several ways to pay your bill. All you need to do is decide which option works best for you:

- Online using your "[My WSSC Water](#)" account. You may click [here](#) to create one.
- Via [WSSC Water's Mobile App](#) using your ten-digit WSSC Water account number and zip code. Enter your street address [here](#) to find it.
- With E-Z Pay Direct Debit Program. Payment is debited directly from your checking or savings account.
- By phone at 301-206-4001, weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Self-Service Kiosks locations in Laurel, Wheaton and Largo
- USPS mail
- In person - cashier, drive-thru window, or drop box - 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707, **OR** PayNearMe service at 7-Eleven, CVS Pharmacy or Family Dollar store.

Please visit wsscwater.com/paymybill to get full details on all our payment

options.

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (CNS)

In our continuing effort to provide excellent customer service, WSSC Water offers a Customer Notification System (CNS) to alert you about our work in your area that may

affect your service or daily routine.

Once you sign up, you will receive email or text alerts about water main breaks, sanitary sewer overflows, road or lane closures caused by WSSC Water work, boil water advisories and occasionally other important messages from us.

Sign up [here](#) for CNS and never be in the dark about water main repairs and water emergencies in your neighborhood.



Customer Assistance and the Water Fund

WSSC Water remains committed to making water/sewer bills more affordable. We want to do everything in our power to help you avoid a water service turnoff and ensure our safe, clean water continues to flow to your tap. Learn more at [WSSC Water's Customer Assistance Programs](#).

Customers may also help by making a tax-deductible donation to [The Water Fund](#) to help more neighbors have access to clean, safe water. Since 1994, the fund has helped nearly 20,000 people throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The Water Fund is administered by The Salvation Army. Every dollar of your donation goes directly to local families who need financial assistance paying their water/sewer bills. Click [here](#) to learn more and donate online.

CUSTOMER ADVOCATES

Our Customer Advocates are in your communities every day, carrying out their mission to serve as liaisons between you and WSSC Water, and ensuring that we are providing a high level of customer service.

Northern Prince George's County (areas north of Central Avenue, MD 214)

David Wilkins

David.Wilkins@wsscwater.com

301-648-6953

Southern Prince George's County (areas south of Central Avenue, MD 214)

Stephen Billingsley

Stephen.Billingsley@wsscwater.com

240-444-5803

Montgomery County

Brandon Stewart

Brandon.Stewart@wsscwater.com

301-642-1712

Find your Customer Advocate [here](#).

Calendar

- **April 10, 2023:** Sine Die
 - **April 19, 2023:** WSSC Water Commission Monthly Meeting
-

Related Links

[Maryland General Assembly](#)

- [Session Calendar \(PDF\)](#)
- [Track Legislation](#)

[Montgomery County Delegation](#)

[Prince George's County Delegation](#)

[Maryland Association of Counties](#)

[Maryland Municipal League](#)

About IRO

WSSC Water's **Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO)** team works to promote the *value of water* and the *value of WSSC Water*; engage *federal, state, county and local government* and elected stakeholders and advocate for WSSC Water's strategic interests and priorities; and foster *relationships* with organizations and promote collaborative interests.

In Annapolis, the IRO team works with members to support administratively and fiscally responsible legislation, in addition to championing policy that benefits all water utilities throughout Maryland. WSSC Water is committed to increased statewide investment in water and wastewater infrastructure and sound regulatory initiatives.

About IRO

WSSC Water's **Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO)** team works to promote the *value of water* and the *value of WSSC Water*; engage *federal, state, county and local government* and elected stakeholders and advocate for WSSC Water's strategic interests and priorities; and foster *relationships* with organizations and promote collaborative interests.

In Annapolis, the IRO team works with members to support administratively and fiscally responsible legislation, in addition to championing policy that benefits all water utilities throughout Maryland. WSSC Water is committed to increased statewide investment in water and wastewater infrastructure and sound regulatory initiatives.

Meet the IRO Team

Guy Andes – *Acting Director*

Guy.Andes@wsscwater.com

Monica Marquina – *Government Affairs Manager*

Monica.Marquina@wsscwater.com

Terry Walker-Morris – *Administrative Professional*

Terry.Walker-Morris@wsscwater.com

Contact Us

(301) 206-8228

iro@wsscwater.com

Please click [here](#) for a printable sheet of our key contacts.



Subscribe to the Annapolis Observer here!

For over 100 years, WSSC Water has proudly served the citizens of Prince George's and Montgomery counties – providing drinking water that has always met strict Safe Drinking Water Act standards and protecting the environment through vital water resource recovery services. Our vision is to be THE world-class water utility, where excellent products and services are always on tap. www.wsscwater.com

WSSC Water | 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707

[Unsubscribe leslie.allen@wsscwater.com](mailto:leslie.allen@wsscwater.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by iro@wsscwater.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!